

## BOROUGH OF STAMFORD.

ABBREVIATED ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1948.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1948. The population for the Borough has for the first time exceeded 11,000. The vital statistics can again be considered very satisfactory.

There has been a slight decline in the birth rate since 1948 and the death rate has remained practically stationary. On the other hand the infantile mortality rate of 12.0 constitutes a new low record and compares most favourably with the figure of 34.0 (itself a record) for England and Wales.

There have been no deaths from maternal causes, no deaths of children under 2 years of age from diarrhoeal diseases as compared with 3.3 per 1000 live births for the whole country, and no deaths from infectious diseases.

Immunisation against diphtheria has continued very satisfactorily; no cases of diphtheria have occurred.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area .....	1918 acres.
Population .....	11,120.
Rateable Value .....	£67,519.
Sum represented by Penny Rate .....	£261.
Number of inhabited houses from Rate Book ....	3197.

Live Births.

		M.	F.	
Total	167	85	82	) Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 15.0
Legitimate		79	79	) Corresponding figure for England & Wales - 17.9

Still Births.

Total	6	3	3	) Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population - 0.05
Legitimate		2	3	) Corresponding figure for England & Wales - 0.42
Illegitimate		1	-	

Deaths.

Total	128	69	59	) Death Rate per 1,000 population - 11.4
				) Corresponding figure for England & Wales - 10.8

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis .....	0
Deaths from other puerperal causes .....	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	12.0
Corresponding figures - all infants for England & Wales ...	34.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	12.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough .....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs of age) .....	Nil
Corresponding figure for England & Wales .....	3.3



Decrease in Birth Rate compared with 1947 .....	2.1
Increase in Death Rate compared with 1947 .....	0.11
Decrease in Infantile Mortality Rate compared with 1947 of .....	16.5

## SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### Laboratory Facilities.

Examinations of pathological specimens in connection with infectious diseases and bacteriological examinations of water supplies are carried out in the Ministry of Health Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, at an annual charge of £10.

## SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

### 1. Water.

The water supply of the Borough is provided by the Stamford Water Works, owner, The Marquess of Exeter, K.G., C.M.G.

This is a piped supply derived from the following sources:-

Bone Mill.	(Well)
Whitewater.	(Springs)
Wothorpe.	(Springs)
Northfields, Stamford.	(Bore Hole)
Ryhall Road, Stamford.	(Bore Hole)

The Bone Mill supply can be augmented by springs situated on the Leicester Road, Thornhaugh and Burghley High Park, the latter supply was used very little during the year. Practically no water has been available from the Wothorpe Springs.

Water is derived from the Lincolnshire Limestone and all supplies with the exception of the Northfields and Ryhall Road Bore Holes are situated without the Borough, (South of the river Welland), in the high ground of the Soke of Peterborough.

All supplies have a high total and permanent hardness and are chlorinated at source.

56 samples of raw water were taken for bacteriological examination during 1948 - all supplies have maintained their satisfactory standard of purity except for Whitewater, which has on occasions been slightly below the average.

48 bacteriological examinations of chlorinated water have been carried out - on one occasion only was chlorination found to be below 100% efficiency and this fault was corrected in a very short time. Special precautions have been taken with regard to the Whitewater supply. 10 chemical examinations have been made - all results were very satisfactory.

Apart from chlorination, no other treatment is given to the water.

The estimated number of dwelling houses supplied from public mains :-

(a) direct to house .....	2997
(b) by stand-pipe .....	200

representing a population of 11976 under (a) and 800 under (b)





## Inspections.

No. of inspections for all purposes:-

Meat and Foods .....	419
Housing and Overcrowding .....	250
Milk and Dairies .....	222
Shops and Factories .....	79
Miscellaneous .....	57
Water Supplies .....	114
	<u>1,141</u>

## Notices Served.

## Issued.

## Complied with.

Informal	21	21
Statutory	4	-

## SECTION D. HOUSING.

### Housing Inspection.

No. of visits .....	250
No. of houses inspected .....	135
No. of houses inspected and recorded .....	115
No. of inspections made for the purpose ...	185
No. of houses found unfit for habitation ..	24
No. of houses not in all respects fit .....	44

### Remedy of defects.

No. of houses closed as a result of action under Sec. 11 of the Housing Act 1936.	2
No. of houses dealt with by accepting undertakings from owners .....	1
No. of houses repaired as result of informal action .....	23
No. of new cases of overcrowding discovered	6
No. of cases of overcrowding abated .....	7
No. of cases of statutory overcrowding re- maining at end of year .....	14

### Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Owing to building restrictions no action has been possible with regard to slum clearance, unfit houses have been dealt with individually.

From information submitted 18 new Council Houses have been completed during the year.

The approximate number of applicants is 485, of whom some 189 are tenants and 296 lodger families. These figures do not include those families living in insanitary houses who have not yet applied for council houses - the number of such families is estimated at 126.



# MEAT INSPECTION.

The number of animals slaughtered in the Borough for sale for human consumption and inspected during the year was 4246.

TABLE 1.                      C A T T L E .

No. of animals inspected.	<u>Exclg cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
	801	214	86	2,973	172

## Tuberculosis only.

No. of whole carcasses and offals condemned.	13	10	1	-	1
No. of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	100	45	-	-	8
Percentage of carcasses affected with tuberculosis.	14.11%	25.7%	1.16%	-	5.23%

## Diseases other than T.B.

No. of whole carcasses and offals condemned.	4	6	6	41	12
No. of carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	186	30	3	185	30
Percentage of carcasses with diseases other than T.B.	23.72%	16.82%	10.46%	7.60%	24.42%


TABLE 2.                      DETAILS OF CONDEMNED MEAT SHOWN IN TABLE 1.

<u>Meat Condemned.</u>	<u>Beef.</u>	<u>Mutton.</u>	<u>Pork.</u>	<u>Veal.</u>
Whole carcasses and offals.	33	41	13	7
Heads.	109	6	6	1
Tongues.	106	6	6	1
Pair of Lungs.	124	96	8	-
Livers.	160	61	1	-
Plucks (complete)	-	4	8	-
Fats (Mesenteric)	39	-	5	-
Spleens.	5	-	-	-
Hearts.	1	3	2	-
Kidneys.	17	1	5	2
Udders.	10	-	-	-
Forequarters (whole)	27	-	3	-
Hindquarters (whole)	3	-	-	-
Other parts of carcasses.	87	58	20	1

The following imported meat has also been condemned:-

3 part hindquarters Beef.

The total weight of all meat condemned was 43,531 lbs.



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## MILK AND DAIRIES.

One additional dairy has been registered during the year.

Monthly milk sampling tests from all producers and retailers in the Borough have been taken, results were quite satisfactory but a little below those of last year.

Classification of samples on the Resazurin Test:-

<u>No. of samples.</u>	<u>Category A.</u> <u>Marketable.</u>	<u>Category B.</u> <u>Salvage.</u>	<u>Category C.</u> <u>Reject.</u>
183	137 74.9%	31 16.9%	15 8.2%

32 samples of heat treated milk have been taken for Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Test. 5 failed Methylene Blue Tests, no failures in Phosphatase.

Bulk samples of 2 herds were taken for the biological test for presence of Tubercle Bacilli - both proved negative.

## ICE CREAM.

Action was taken under Sec. 14(3) of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 regarding one firm's premises, which were subsequently put in order.

Methylene Blue Test grading:-

	<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 4.</u>
No. of samples	5	3	2	4

Owing to the difficulty in control of the selling of ice creams and distribution of other food stuffs, application was made for special Byelaws - these will be in force by June 1949.

## SECTION F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### Hospital Accommodation.

Only 9 cases of infectious diseases have required isolation hospital treatment during 1948; owing to staff shortages, Bourne Isolation was not able to admit, all cases were therefore treated at the Peterborough City Isolation Hospital. No difficulty was experienced in obtaining admissions.

Since the commencement of the National Health Service on July 5th, responsibility for providing isolation hospital accommodation rests with the Peterborough Hospital Area (No.12) Management Committee under the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Since July 5th. Kesteven County Council have assumed complete responsibility and control of diphtheria immunisation, the Barn Hill Immunisation Clinic has continued as heretofore and attendances have been satisfactory.

Number of immunisations completed at the Barn Hill Clinic:-

8 months - 5 yrs	-	115.
5 - 15 yrs	-	45 + 12 Re-inoculations.



In addition, immunisations are performed by the children's own doctors under the National Health Act.

The Borough Council is re-imbursed for all immunisations performed by the Medical Officer of Health at Barn Hill Clinic.

For the third year in succession no cases of diphtheria have occurred.

I would again like to thank the Stamford Red Cross Detachment for another year of valuable help in staffing the Barn Hill Immunisation Clinic.

The response to diphtheria immunisation in the Borough is I consider very satisfactory.

#### Pediculosis - Infestation by body and head lice.

Total number of houses wherein occupants were found to be infested with head lice ..... 1

Total number of infested persons reported ..... 1

Steps taken to combat infestation are the reporting of cases to the Medical Officer of Health by General Practitioners, School Medical Services and Health Visitors and Factory Surgeon; by visiting the homes of children found to be infested, and by arranging for simultaneous treatment under supervision at home or at the clinic.

Treatment for head lice is given by the parents in their homes under supervision of the School Nurse.

Flea infestation of houses is treated by Benzine Hexachloride - results have been quite satisfactory.

#### Bed Bugs.

2 houses have been disinfested for bed bugs.

#### Health Education.

Lectures have been given under the Ministry of Health's Scheme on the Spread of Diseases by Contaminated Foods. Leaflets and posters on health matters are displayed and distributed at the School and Infant Welfare clinics and are accepted with great interest by the parents. Similar arrangements are made at the Public Library.

A local Food Trades Committee has been formed with the object of laying down an agreed standard of hygiene in the preparation and handling of food in establishments and distribution.

#### Notifiable Diseases reported during the year.

	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	12	2	-
Typhoid & Para-Typhoid	-	-	-
Lobar Pneumonia (Primary)	4	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Measles	143	1	-
Whooping Cough	115	2	-
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	2	2	-
(Infantile Paralysis)			





An epidemic of a moderately severe measles and whooping cough occurred - 3 children were admitted to Peterborough Isolation Hospital suffering from pneumonia complications, all happily recovered.

(a) Cancer.

No undue prevalence in the district.

Since the 5th. July, patients resident in Stamford are treated under the East Anglian Hospital Board Scheme at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, the patients first being seen by a Specialist at the Stamford & Rutland Hospital.

The Scunthorpe Centre is no longer available.

Tuberculosis.

Notified during year.

Notified during year.

New Cases.

Deaths.

	<u>Resp.</u>		<u>Non-Resp.</u>		<u>Resp.</u>		<u>Non-Resp.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 - 10 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15 yrs.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 yrs.	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
25 - 35 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45 yrs.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 yrs.	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 - 65 yrs.	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
	-	5	-	-	2	4	-	-

Six fewer cases of tuberculosis were notified compared with 1947.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis (6) is an increase of 2.

Special consideration is given to persons suffering from active tuberculosis in the allocation of new houses.

I would like to record my appreciation and thanks for the help and co-operation of the members of the Health Committee and Public Health Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

*B. G. Hawes.*

Medical Officer of Health.

June 1949.

